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TRIMMIER, THEODORE GILLARD
(1825-1865)
PAPERS
1854-1900

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INTRODUCTION

These papers of Theodore Gillard Trimmier (1825-1865), Lieutenant Colonel of the 41st Regiment Alabama Volunteers, Confederate States of America, span the years 1854-1900, and are concentrated on the years 1861-1865. The Trimmier Papers are a gift of Mrs. T.T. McCarley, Sr. of Nashville, Tennessee, through the agency of Mrs. J. Ross Cheshire, Jr. of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Theodore Gillard Trimmier Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Theodore Gillard Trimmier Papers, containing one hundred-fifty items, span the years 1854-1900. Concentrated on the years when Lieutenant Colonel Trimmier commanded the 41st Alabama Regiment, the collection is composed primarily of correspondence of Colonel Trimmier to his wife, Mrs. Mary ("Molly") L. Trimmier, of North Port, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, plus miscellaneous family correspondence, military orders, and genealogical information.

Colonel Trimmier's correspondence with his wife deals with such topics as Southern secession, the management (planting and harvesting of crops, supervision of the slaves, retiring debts, etc.) of their Alabama plantation, rearing and educating their children, and conditions of Confederate soldiers (including the lack of adequate clothing, illnesses, morale, desertions, military campaigns in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia, news of various regiment members, the importance of maintaining high civilian morale, and the use of Negroes as troops).

Genealogical data for the Trimmier and Thomson families is included in the family correspondence. Tennessee history of the Civil War period is found primarily in these letters of Trimmier's, which cover the military campaigns of eastern Tennessee. Other historical data is provided in the accounts of the campaigns and engagements in Mississippi and Virginia, particularly near Petersburg.

The historical value of this collection for the researcher is to be found in those letters by Trimmier which give personal accounts of the hardships experienced by the Confederate soldier, suffering from a lack of adequate clothing, plagued by disease and illnesses, outnumbered by his Union enemy, and his ranks weakened by constant desertions; it was a credit to the fortitude and courage of the men in gray that the South was able to endure as long as it did. The realism of the daily routine of the Southern enlisted men and their officers is enhanced with brief observations of their generals, including Pierre G.T. Beauregard, Archibald Gracie, Thomas J. Jackson, Joseph E. Johnston, and John C. Sanders.

In addition to the general value of the historian, the Trimmier collection may provide genealogical information for those conducting research on relatives who served in the 41st Alabama Regiment during the War Between the States.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Theodore Gillard Trimmier

- 1825 April 11 – Born at Spartanburg, South Carolina; son of William and Margaret Trimmier
- Reared and educated in Spartanburg; while quite a young man went to Anderson County, South Carolina, and engaged in mercantile business for several years
- Married Mary Letitia Thomson, daughter of Dr. Matthew and Arabella (Keys) Thomson of Anderson County, South Carolina
- 1853 Returned to Spartanburg and engaged in mercantile business
- 1858 Removed to Alabama and lived on a plantation near North Port, Tuscaloosa County
- Served as a member of the brigade staff of General O.E. Edwards, 9th Brigade, S.C.M.
- 1862 April – entered service of the State of Alabama in the Confederate Army at Tuscaloosa; elected Captain of Company A. (“Sipsey Guards”), 41st Regiment of Alabama
- October – promoted to rank of Major
- 1862-1863 Participated in many battles, including Jackson, Mississippi; Chickamauga, Murfreesboro, and Bean’s Station, Tennessee; promoted to rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 41st Regiment, Alabama Infantry early in 1863
- 1864-1865 Involved in many important battles around Petersburg, Virginia, while 41st Alabama was part of Gracie’s Brigade of Alabama
- 1865 March 31, mortally wounded at Battle of Hatcher’s Run near Petersburg, Virginia
- April 7 – died of wound received

Note: The above biographical data was largely taken from Landrum’s *History of Spartanburg County, (SC)* – see Box 2, folder 7

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Correspondence – Theodore G. Trimmier to Mrs. Mary L. Trimmier

1. October 26, 1858 - August 5, 1861
2. January 7, 1862 - June 23, 1862
3. July 8, 1862 - August 28, 1862
4. September 9, 1862 - October 30, 1862
5. November 8, 1862 - December 21, 1862
6. January 12, 1863 - April 24, 1863
7. May 12, 1863 - June 30, 1863
8. July 3, 1863 - July 31, 1863
9. August 7, 1863 - October 25, 1863
10. November 1, 1863 - December 31, 1863
11. January 9, 1864 - February 26, 1864
12. March 4, 1864 - May 31, 1864
13. June 1, 1864 - August 22, 1864

Box 2

Correspondence – Theodore G. Trimmier to Mrs. Mary L. Trimmier

1. September 7, 1864 - November 17, 1864
2. February 2, 1865 - March 3, 1865
3. Correspondence – Trimmier, T.G. to Thomas, J.A. – April 5, 1862
Correspondence – Trimmier, T.G. to Mother and Sister – November 16, 1862
4. Correspondence – _____, Rachael to _____, William – 1854
Correspondence – [sister] to Trimmier, Mrs. M.L. – 1857-1860
Correspondence – Abert (?) to Trimmier, T.G. – 1862
Correspondence – Trimmier, F.M. to Trimmier, T.G. – 1862
Correspondence – Talbius, _____ to Trimmier, T.G. (2), n.d. – 1863
Correspondence – Thomson, J.A. to Trimmier, Mrs. M.L. – 1864
Correspondence – McCarley, _____ to Mother – 1898
5. Military Orders – 1863-1864
6. Petitions – United Daughters of the Confederacy – 1896-1900
7. Genealogical Data – Trimmier and Thomson families
8. Account – Thomson, Mills, and Rice – 1859

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondence only in the Theodore Gillard Trimmier Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- Abert (?), Charles H., Columbus, Mississippi, to Captain T.G. Trimmier, Sipsey Guard of Alabama, 1862, re: thanks and appreciation for complimentary Resolution for services rendered. 2-4
- Author Unknown, Spartanburg, South Carolina, to Sister, 1857, re: possibility of death, 2-4
- Daughters of the American Revolution, to Mrs. Dows McCarley, 1913, re: Revolutionary War service of Matthew Thompson, 2-7
- McCarley, Trimmier, Okolona, Mississippi, to Mother, 1898, re: general items, 2-4
_____, Rachel, Elm Cottage, to William _____, 1854, re: camp meeting; misunderstandings, 2-4
- Sister, Spartanburg, South Carolina, to Mrs. T.G. Trimmier, 1860, re: general news, 2-4
- Talbus, H., Marion, Alabama, to Trimmier, n.d. and 1863, re: military expedition; appointment of Dr. Barron as surgeon of 41st Regiment Alabama Volunteers, 2-4
- Thomson, John A. (2) to Mrs. Mary Trimmier, 1864, re: conduct and course of the war; encamped near Columbus, Mississippi; need for clothes; course of war for the Confederacy, 2-4
- Trimmier, Jane L. (2) Longbridge, Georgia, to Cousin Mary, n.d. and 1900 (?), re: ancestral information on the Trimmier line, 2-7
- Trimmier, F.M., Spartanburg, South Carolina, to Trimmier, 1862, re: congratulations on promotion to major; family news, 2-4
- Trimmier, Theodore Gillard (126) to his wife, n.d., and 1858-1865, re: advice on managing the crops and slaves; arrival by stage at Selma, Alabama; derailment of train near Opelika, Alabama; arrival at Columbia, South Carolina enroute to Spartanburg; trip to Louisiana in search for land; Southern secession; Columbus, Mississippi; Starlin and horses; encamped at Allisona, Tennessee; weariness after seven days of battle; encamped at Columbus, Mississippi; report on military situation at Corinth; concern over welfare of family; status of regiment; welfare and morale of regiment; waiting for orders; news from Corinth; response to dissatisfaction of company toward leadership; regimental news of illness and expected marching orders; encamped at Tuscaloosa, Alabama; reports on individuals in regiment; bloody flux disease; expecting orders to move to Mobile; drilling of regiment; smallpox report false alarm; need to set a good example as a soldier's wife; sickness in other companies; news of various regiment members; encamped at Jemison; marching orders for Chattanooga, Tennessee; enroute to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama; warm receptions by townspeople; uniform complete; encamped twenty miles above

Selma, Alabama; sinking of "Dellet"; encamped at Montgomery, Alabama; news of death and illness of men; need for clothing; resolve to defeat the Union Army; encamped near Chattanooga, Tennessee; maneuvers; filling of vacancy of various regimental commander; activities of various regimental members; need for letters; encamped at Charleston (Bradley County), Tennessee; news of the regiment; no letters received; need for winter clothing for the men; encamped at Long Island, Alabama; picket duty across river from enemy; news of regiment members; encamped near Bridgeport, Alabama; battle with enemy; request for clothing; managing the plantation; encamped at Camp Maxey; sickness of various individuals in regiment; filling vacancy of commanding officer of regiment; afflictions of their youngest child; receipt of letters from home; sickness of men; death of Fletcher; shipment of shoes and clothing for men; orders for movement to Nashville; money sent home; encamped near Knoxville, Tennessee; sickness; news of wife's brothers; preparations for march into Kentucky; lack of clothing for men; money sent home; encamped at Clinton, Tennessee; regimental movements; encamped at Campbell County, Tennessee; promotion to major; overland march from Clinton, Tennessee; criticism of Confederate strategy in relinquishing Tennessee for Kentucky; company's acceptance of his promotion as commander; encamped at Knoxville; assigned to Breckinridge's Division; receipt of trunk; saw Matthew (wife's brother); encamped at Murfreesboro, Tennessee; news of troop maneuvers; concern about adequate clothing; marching to Nashville, Tennessee; attached to 1st Kentucky Brigade; awaiting orders; no mail; drilling; severe march through snow and ice; Morgan's engagement and defeat of Federals east of Nashville; grateful for receipt of clothing and candles; division reviewed by President Jefferson Davis; petition to transfer regiment to an Alabama brigade; need for perseverance; condition of John [Thomson]; request for leave of absence; leave of absence denied; news of enemy movements; encamped at Tullahoma, Tennessee; battle details; encamped at Manchester, Tennessee; review of regiment by Generals [Bushrod] Johnson and John Breckinridge; attempts to improve quality of regiment since assuming command; news of regimental activities; picket duty; prospect for troop movement; status of ill members of regiment; inquiry about sums of money sent home; condition of slaves and farming progress; recovering from illness; concern about the behavior of his children; in hospital at Catoosa Springs, Georgia; anticipates return to regiment; concern over management of plantation and finances; need to persevere on the home front; need for postage stamps; encamped at Jackson, Mississippi; march from West Point, Georgia to Jackson, Mississippi; concern over welfare of family; significance of what the fall of Vicksburg will mean to the Confederacy; received news of the death of General "Stonewall" Jackson; advice on handling the slaves; his brother Frank's promotion; problem of deserters; news of sickness and promotions; inquiries about slaves and crops; encamped at Boltons Depot, Mississippi; election in company; retreat with rumor of Vicksburg's fall; report on recent engagements with the enemy; encampment in Scott County, Mississippi; life in the regiment; encamped at Morton, Mississippi; news on the welfare of the Sipsey Guards; selling of certain slaves; clothing from home; sickness

and desertion among the men; the future of the institution of slavery; inquiries about life at home; sitting on General Court Martial Board for deserters; court martial cases; encamped at Tyner's Station, Tennessee; details of John's [possibly his wife's brother] burial arrangements;

can hear the cannon firing from Chattanooga; visit to Missionary Ridge; encamped at Missionary Ridge; no letters received; describes regiment routine; money order and esquire certificate enclosed; encamped at Charleston, Tennessee; need for clothing and riding equipment; encamped at Bean's Station in East Tennessee; need for shoes; Longstreet's pursuit of the enemy; encamped at Morristown, Tennessee; need for news from home; thinking about home during Christmas season; building winter quarters; money sent home; encamped at Bristol, Tennessee; letter damaged by water; General P.G.T. Beauregard given command of Georgia's army; hard times experienced by the soldiers; stopover at Milledgeville, Georgia, enroute to rejoin regiment after leave at home; demoralization of civilians toward continuance of the war; encamped at Dandridge, Tennessee; sending horse home; cases of smallpox in the regiment; encamped near Brabson's Ferry, Tennessee; receipt of clothing for men; condition of slaves at home; concern over the management of finances and plantation at home; encamped near Greenville, Tennessee; news of camp life; preparations for an overland march; encamped near Midway, Tennessee; receipt of clothing and tobacco; concern over horse sent home; not hopeful about his application for a leave of absence; encamped at Petersburg, Virginia; movement of troops by rail from Alabama; encamped near Abingdon, Virginia; news of the morale of the regiment; concern over the bad character of women at home; encamped at Drewry's Bluff, Virginia; movement of regiment down James River; encamped at Chaffin's Farm, Virginia; advice on farming and gardening; possibility of a promotion; temporary appointment as 59th Alabama Regiment commander; discussion with General Gracie concerning promotion; dissatisfaction with chain of command; quiet on James River front; encamped at Fort Clifton, near Petersburg, Virginia; regiment as part of Gracie's Brigade in action against Grant's forces; to be relieved of command of 43rd Regiment upon return of Lt. Colonel Jolly; enemy repulsed; shelling by Grant's men; illness; news of various regiment members; slight attack of pneumonia; recovering from illness; quiet on the front; Grant's forces repulsed with heavy loss of blacks; death of General John Sanders; in command of regiment; encouragement to persevere at home; broken promises made to blacks by the North; only field officers with the 41st Regiment; occasional shelling and picket duty; gleaning of unspent cartridges and shells from the battlefield; confinement to trenches; report on camp life; advice on managing the plantation; Frank's serious wound; leasing farm land from William Finnell; news of the death of William, his wife's brother; return to regiment after illness; concern for an honorable peace; effect that the conditions of the western army

are having on the South; still unwell; health improving; consolidation of companies and regiments and its effect on the 41st; differences with Col. Stansel; Congress' intent to put blacks into service; desertions; relations with fellow officers; all quiet along the lines, 1-1 through 1-13 and 2-1 through 2-2

Trimmier, Theodore Gillard, Columbus, Mississippi, to J.A. Thomson, 1862, re: news of various regiments, 2-3

Trimmier, Theodore Gillard, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to Mother and Sister, 1862, re: attached to 1st Kentucky Brigade; promotion to major; destruction of countryside by the enemy, 2-3